

this respect and which limit themselves mainly to government and State bonds, with loans on real estate worth at least double the amount, can permanently secure the entire confidence of the public. A security which is liable to large depreciation, either from its own uncertain value or by reason of financial pressure, is not a fit investment for our life companies, which can really be considered only in the light of trustees of the money deposited in their charge. The trouble that has arisen among some of the insurance companies in England is chiefly owing to their bad investments—to their having been guided, in fact, more by the interest of their officers and directors than by a wish to do justice to those insured with them.

In judging for themselves, the public manifestly gives preference to long-established, leading companies, the record of whose transactions inspires confidence and offers the best guarantee for sound and profitable management—such, for example, as the Mutual Life, Connecticut Mutual, Mutual Benefit, Knickerbocker, Equitable Life and a few others which might be named as having won abroad, as well as at home, the credit of being carefully and honestly administered.

Invitations have been addressed by Superintendent Miller to the life insurance superintendents and Commissioners of all the different States to meet in New York City on the 24th instant. It is to be hoped that this convention will attain its object, which is to secure, if possible, friendly co-operation in promoting uniformity and other desirable improvements in life insurance business and legislation throughout the Union.

Personal Intelligence.

Ex-Governor J. M. Ashley is domiciled at the Astor House. John Sherman, United States Senator from Ohio, is sojourning at the St. Nicholas. Colonel John B. Palmer, of South Carolina, is stopping at the Grand Central. Colonel T. W. C. Moore, of Washington, is a guest at the Sturtevant House. Congressman William H. Bartram, of Connecticut, is sojourning at the Fifth Avenue. Mr. and Mrs. J. V. L. Pruyn, of Albany, have apartments at the Everett House. Thomas A. Scott, of Philadelphia, is residing at the Hoffman House. Horace Maynard, of Tennessee, is sojourning at the Astor House. Peter C. Doyle, Superintendent of the Police of Buffalo, is a guest at the St. Nicholas. James C. Frazier, of England, is domiciled at the Sturtevant House. A. H. Lowery, of Washington, is sojourning at the Fifth Avenue. Judge A. H. Hall, of Indiana, is stopping at the Sturtevant House. William F. Stetson, of Boston, is a sojourner at the Fifth Avenue. Charles Parrish, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., is staying at the Hoffman House. General Kent Jarvis, of Ohio, is staying at the St. Nicholas. Marshal Wood, of Rhode Island, and family have apartments at the Fifth Avenue. General J. F. Boyle, of Kentucky, is quartered at the St. Nicholas. Colonel J. S. Buckle, of Oregon, is residing at the Astor House. Governor John T. Hoffman left the Clarendon Hotel for Virginia on Tuesday. Abram Van Vechten and family, of Albany, left for Russia for Europe yesterday.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Major General Olney Arnold, of Pawtucket, R. I., and democratic Senator elect of that State, was in Rochester last week. Among the loyal claimants is Mrs. Mary J. Wayne, widow of Justice Wayne, of Georgia, in the United States Supreme Court. A younger brother of Mr. Thomas Hughes, M. P., is in St. Louis on business for the London house with which he is connected. Miss Kate Reynolds, so long a favorite of the stage, has given in her name to the Boston Lyceum Bureau for the purpose of securing next winter. Ex-Governor Corbin, of Maine, is reported to be worth \$50,000, making him the richest man in the State. His annual income is reported to be over \$70,000. General A. A. Humphrey and General John O. Burke, of the Engineer Corps, United States Army, are in Portland, Me., inspecting the fortifications in the harbor. Agnes Lewis, the young girl sixteen years old who has this year distinguished herself by her brilliant success in the London examination, is a cousin of Ida Lewis, the Grace Darling of New England. General John R. Gordon, of Georgia, has been lecturing in Maine, making the points that education and the fostering of manufacturing interests are the two great things for the development of the South. The Chicago Times devotes nearly five columns to the late Rev. Eleazar Williams, of Wisconsin, one of the claimants of the French throne, and says the Rev. Eleazar's son, John, now "the lineal heir," is engaged to be married to a young man of one of the lake crafts, and that he resides at Oskosh.

FOREIGN PERSONAL GOSSIP.

Lieutenant Colonel Ephraim has been appointed Comptroller of Prince Arthur's household. All the literary and historical documents left in M. Thiers's house in Paris were destroyed by the Communists. An on dit is current in England to the effect that Queen Victoria has settled the estate of Baltimore upon the Princess Louise. Lucius H. Deering, R. A., of Dublin, has been appointed one of the associates of the Institution of British Naval Architects. The commanders of German army corps will each receive annual appropriations from the Emperor of Germany's private exchequer. The French Minister of War Le Flo is at present negotiating with the American Captain Lowe for the purchase of a large number of Gatling guns. Mr. John Jay, United States Minister to Vienna, is about to go on a leave of absence to Constantinople and Athens, and will go back in Vienna in the month of June. Lord Bloomfield will, on account of his advanced age, retire from the British Embassy at Vienna, and will be replaced by Lord Loftus, at present Minister to the Netherlands. Mr. Johnson, member of Parliament for Belfast, Ireland, was lately presented with an address and a purse containing £250 for his services in behalf of the Ulster peasantry. The Captain Vivian of the English Army, gives, in a paper, the pay of British soldiers per week. The pay of the engineers is the highest; that of the household troops is the next. Prince Alfonso Maria, grandson of Don Carlos, of Spain, was married on April 29 in the castle of Prince Lowenstein, near Aschaffenburg, Bavaria, to the Princess Maria de Braganza, eldest daughter of Don Miguel, of Portugal. Dr. Walden, Sanitary Commissioner to the Emperor of Germany, recently performed a most difficult and successful operation on Prince Albrecht, the Emperor's brother, who took a prominent part in the late Franco-German war. Prince Albrecht returned from France with a serious affection of the eye, which Dr. Walden at once recognized as glaucoma. The feasibility of curing this by operation had been demonstrated only a few years ago by the Doctor himself, whom the Emperor William, in private audience, authorized to perform the operation, which has resulted in perfectly restoring the eyesight of the Prince. Dr. Walden is the husband of the celebrated German oculist, and has been charged with the stage to share the life of the distinguished surgeon.

ZION CHURCH CONFERENCE.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., May 17, 1871. The annual conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, New York district, was called to order in this city today by Bishop Clinton. The Rev. Jacob Thomas is acting secretary. The conference will be in session eight days.

ILLNESS OF A DAUGHTER OF SENATOR CAMERON.

HARRISBURG, Pa., May 17, 1871. Mrs. Burnside, one of the daughters of Senator Cameron, was struck with paralysis this morning, and is not expected to live. Senator Cameron has been telegraphed for.

THE DYING COMMUNE.

The Versailles Forces Pressing Their Operations.

THE CITY WALLS UNDERMINED.

A Terrible Fire Poured Upon the Bastions.

The Auteuil and Versailles Gates Destroyed.

DISMAY OF THE COMMUNISTS.

Civilians Appointed to Watch the Insurgent Generals.

TERRIFIC EXPLOSION IN PARIS.

Reported Capture of Fort Montrouge by the Government Troops.

THE COMMUNAL DEATH STRUGGLE.

TELEGRAMS TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

Versailles Pressing Operations—Terror in the Camps—Undermining the Walls—Clashes Again—Watching the Generals—The Column Vendôme—Miscellaneous Items.

PARIS, May 17.—Afternoon. The Versailles are pressing operations for the capture of Billancourt.

TERRIFIC FIRE ON THE BARRIERS. The Auteuil and Versailles gates of Paris have been destroyed by the bombardment, and the neighboring bastions are silent under a terrific fire. Fort Issy, now in the hands of the Versailles troops, bombards Petit Vanves, Grenelle and Point du Jour. The latter position is untenable.

UNDERMINING THE WALLS. It is believed the Versailles are undermining the walls near the Auteuil Gate.

CLASHES AGAIN AFOOT. General Cluseret advises the Committee of Safety to cause the erection of barricades in the Place de l'Étoile, the Place de Rome and the Place d'Éryan; of a second line of defensive works from the Passy Gate to the Grenelle Bridge, and of a third line from the Pont de la Concorde to the Porte de St. Ouen.

WATCHING THE GENERALS. The Committee of Public Safety has, by decree, associated civil commissioners with all the generals of the Commune, in order, it is said, to prevent all danger of a dictatorship. MM. Burger and Debove are associated in the command with General Dombrowski, M. Johannard with General La Cecilia and M. Mellet with General Wroblewski.

THE COLUMN VENDÔME. The column of Vendôme fell in three pieces. The square in which it stood will henceforth be known as the Place Internationale.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS. All trains leaving Paris are carefully examined. Owners of petroleum are ordered to report to the Commune.

The Parisians still hold Fort Montrouge. Fort Vanves is unoccupied. Discussions continue among the committees of the Commune.

The City to Have Been Carried Last Night—Versailles Pushing Their Parallels—A Protest—More Newspapers Suppressed.

LONDON, May 17, 1871. The London Standard's special despatch says the Versailles will probably carry the city tonight, and that the Communists are leaving in dismay.

THE VERSAILLES PUSHING THEIR PARALLELS. The Versailles parallels have been advanced until they are now only one hundred metres from the ramparts of Paris. The troops in the trenches are greatly disturbed by the fire of the insurgents, and as many as thirty of them were killed in the night.

A MORTAR. The London Daily News special despatch from Paris says an important minority of the Commune has protested against the continued existence of the Committee of Safety.

MORE NEWSPAPERS SUPPRESSED. A despatch from Paris says the *State National*, *Avenir National*, *Journal de Paris*, *Courrier* and *Discours* have been suppressed.

PERSONS INJURED. Several persons were injured by the fall of the Column Vendôme.

LATER—INSURGENT CAPT ON PETIT VANVES AND MONTRONGE—Escalading Ladders for the Versailles Troops.

LONDON, May 17, 1871. Later despatches from Paris state that the federalists occupying the village of Malakoff have been cut off from communication with their main force and are in danger of capture.

RETIRED WITHIN THE WALLS. The insurgent troops have retired from Petit Vanves and Montrouge to the city.

ESCALADING LADDERS. Ladders to be used in scaling the ramparts of Paris have reached the outposts of the government troops in the Bois de Boulogne.

VERSAILLES REPORTS.

TELEGRAMS TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

Terrific Explosion in Paris—Louis Blanc Coming to America.

VERSAILLES, May 17, 1871. A terrific explosion occurred this evening in the Eastern portion of Paris, in the direction of the Avenue du Trône. Its effects were plainly noted here, and it is believed that a powder magazine near the inner fortification was reached by a shell from the Versailles' batteries at Neuilly.

LOUIS BLANC TO VISIT US. M. Louis Blanc will go to America after the termination of the sessions of the Assembly.

Reported Capture of Fort Montrouge—The Assembly and the Republic.

LONDON, May 17, 1871. The London Standard's special despatch from Versailles gives a report that Fort Montrouge has been taken.

The same correspondent says the republican delegates will present to the Assembly a motion for the appointment of M. Thiers to the Presidency of the Republic for two years, and adds that a disturbance is expected.

KNICKERBOCKER ASSURANCE. The committee of policy holders of the Knickerbocker Insurance Company appointed to receive complaints of parties holding policies, was held last evening in Hubner's Hotel, 27 Bowery, Mr. Klein presiding. Several complaints were handed in and noted down. In one case, that of Mr. Charles Faust, who held a policy of \$5,000, and had paid three yearly premiums, which would, by a rule of the company, entitle him to a three-fold paid up policy, the company had declared the policy forfeited, in the last year's premium had not been paid in at the proper time. It was the custom of the company to send round agents to collect the premiums, but this year it is alleged, they did not, and when the policy holders called at the office to pay them, they were informed that the policies were forfeited. It is also charged that the company did not allow the policy holders the fair dividend.

ENGLAND.

The Liquor Controversy Revived in the House of Commons—Disaster in the English Channel.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

LONDON, May 17, 1871. In the House of Commons this evening the bill permitting but putting certain restrictions upon the sale of liquors was discussed at length. Petitions both for and against the measure were presented, and arguments made on both sides of the question. The opponents of the bill proved the stronger party, and it was lost by 82 majority.

THE WEATHER IN ENGLAND. The weather is very cold, and snow fell this morning in Scotland and the north of England. It is thought the crops have sustained injury.

COLLISION AT SEA AND LOSS OF LIFE. A French fishing vessel, has been run down and sunk in the English Channel by an American bark, whose name is not reported. Twelve of the crew of the fisherman were lost.

SPAIN. The Budget in the Chamber of Deputies.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

MADRID, May 17, 1871. The financial condition of Spain has greatly improved since the advent of Señor Moret, the present Minister of Finance, who has introduced several financial reforms which will result in a considerable saving to the government. Government funds have risen in value, and Spanish credit, which had until lately been a byword to the capitalists of Europe, is now held in better estimation.

Señor Moret has presented the annual budget to the Cortes. The exhibit is very favorable and was well received.

ITALY. Compensation to Florence for the Transfer of the Capital to Rome.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

FLORENCE, May 16, 1871. The Italian Chamber of Deputies has adopted a bill making provision for compensation to the city of Florence for the transfer of the capital to Rome. The definite date of the transfer has not yet been decided upon. It is greatly delayed on account of the want of government accommodation in Rome. A number of buildings are now being erected in that city for the use of the several departments and the King's household, but the work is progressing very slowly, owing to a want of energy in the arrangements and to the short-sighted parsimony of the Italian government.

TURKEY. The Papal Legate's Mission to the Sultan a Failure.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 16, 1871. The Papal Nuncio, Mgr. Franchi, who was warmly received by the Catholics of this city, has already had several interviews with the Grand Vizier Ali Pasha. He has vainly endeavored to bring about an agreement between the dissenting Armenian Catholics. But the principal object of his mission was to conclude a concordat with Turkey, similar to that existing between France and the Holy See. It is now officially announced that the Turkish government is unwilling to conclude any convention with Rome.

VENUEZUELA. Rumors of a New Revolution—Nobody Frightened—A Filibustering Expedition Attacked and Beaten.

LA GUAYRA, April 24, 1871. There are rumors of a new revolution, but very little importance is attached to them. An expedition left Caracas and has landed at Coro. They were attacked by the government forces and most of them captured and the balance dispersed.

PENNSYLVANIA REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION. Nominations for State Officers—President Grant's Administration Endorsed—Governor Geary on the Situation—Not a Candidate for Re-election Unless Draggued Out.

HARRISBURG, May 17, 1871. The Republican State Convention nominated Colonel David Stanton, of Beaver, for Auditor General, and Robert B. Beach, of Schuylkill, for Surveyor General, both on the first ballot. The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the administration of President Grant meets the full approval of the republican party of Pennsylvania. His financial policy, by which the national debt is steadily reduced, and the treasury is replenished, his honest collection of the revenue, his fidelity to the law, and his courage in the face of the opposition, are all to be secured in every part of the land; his loyalty, his integrity, his high sense of duty, and his love of his country, are all to be maintained in every part of the land; his administration is a model for all to follow.

Resolved, That the republican party of Pennsylvania, in having no policy to enforce against the will of the people, and in having no policy to enforce against the will of the people, are all to be maintained in every part of the land; his loyalty, his integrity, his high sense of duty, and his love of his country, are all to be maintained in every part of the land; his administration is a model for all to follow.

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YACHTING.

The New York Yacht Club Invited to Participate in the Cape May Races—Mr. Osgood's New Yacht.

PHILADELPHIA, May 17, 1871. An invitation, signed by General Meade, Secretary of the New York Yacht Club, General Patterson, Commodore Goldsborough, General Stockton, Colonel John G. Stevens, John C. Bullitt, General W. J. Sewell, Joseph F. Tobias and Charles Duffy, has been sent to James Gordon Bennett, Jr., Commodore of the New York Yacht Club, inviting the club to participate in the races at Cape May on July 4.

Mr. Frank Osgood's new yacht, recently completed at Chester, is being fitted out at Camden, N. J.

THE PACIFIC COAST. Sailing of the Panama Steamer—A Valuable Cargo—Opposition to Webb's Australian Steamship Line.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 17, 1871. The Montana, for Panama, carried \$135,000 in treasure and a cargo of lead, wool, hides, whale oil, glue and California wine valued at \$166,000.

The British iron steamer City of Melbourne is advertised to sail on June 10 for Honolulu, San Francisco, Sydney and Melbourne, as pioneer of the new English line opposition to Webb's American line.

Captain Francis Langlois, of the bark Henry Adair, from Honolulu, died suddenly on shipboard on Sunday last night. He came out from London a few weeks ago and leaves a family in the island of Jersey.

The following record will show the changes in the temperature for the past twenty-four hours in comparison with the corresponding day of last year, as indicated by the thermometer at Hudson's Pharmacy, Herald Building, corner of Ash street—

1870. 1871.

3 A. M.	61	66	3 P. M.	63	76
6 A. M.	64	68	6 P. M.	65	79
9 A. M.	62	68	9 P. M.	60	83
12 M.	68	72	12 P. M.	58	89
Average temperature yesterday	65	72	Average temperature for corresponding date last year	65	85

The following special notice was issued yesterday by the Merchants' Exchange Association:—"By unanimous consent of the members the hour of exchange will in future be from one to two P. M. instead of from two to three P. M. as heretofore. The hour of exchange will be from one to two P. M. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and from two to three P. M. on Sunday and public holidays."

At pier No. 50 East River yesterday the body of an unknown man, about thirty-five years of age, was found and sent to the Morgue to await an investigation before Coroner Young. The body was five feet eight inches in height and dressed in checkered pants, white shirt and woolen socks, but no coat or boots.

In the report of the proceedings of the Special Sessions yesterday by an inadvertence it was stated that Mr. Patrick Kelly was charged with the theft of a watch from the pocket of a man in the crowd. The watch was a gold watch and worth \$100. Kelly was charged with the theft of the watch from the pocket of a man in the crowd. The watch was a gold watch and worth \$100. Kelly was charged with the theft of the watch from the pocket of a man in the crowd.

The body of an unknown man, forty-two years of age, apparently a German, five feet two inches in height, with black hair and whiskers mixed with gray, and black eyes, was yesterday found floating in the water between piers 61 and 62 East River and sent to the Morgue. The body was without coat and stockings, but wore black pants, plaid shirt and gaiter shoes. The body was sent to the Morgue and Coroner Scher